



EYES OF THE EAGLE

THE ANNUAL TRAINING NEWSLETTER OF THE 240TH ENGINEER GROUP

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Eyes of the Eagle Staff

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Simulation Exercise 2005

The Annual Training period for the 240th Engineer Group was kick-started by their participation in a Simulation Exercise (SIMEX) with the 111th Engineer Group. This event was facilitated by the 1st Simulation Exercise Group, 1st Brigade, 78th Division (TS). This was the first SIMEX where two separate groups and a simulation cell conducted an exercise in three different locations utilizing a Wide Area Network for Command & Control.



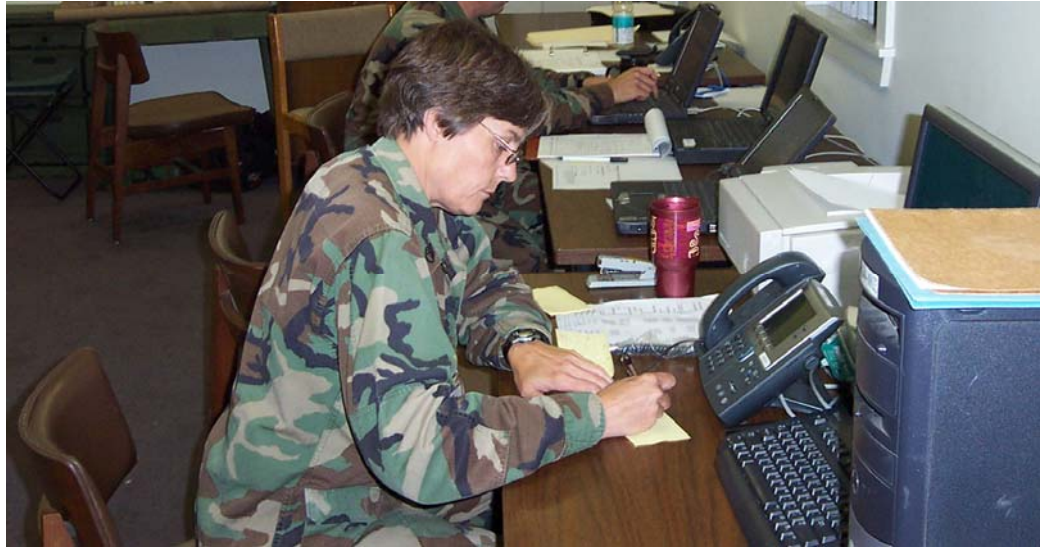
Sergeant First Class Ed McGuire works on the Intelligence Summary during the Simulation Exercise during Annual Training 2005.

In the SIMEX, units were stationed in the northern Iraqi Theater of Operations. The 240th Engineer Group was supporting the 130th Engineer Brigade in providing engineer support to the Area of Responsibility. The 240th was given two subordinate battalions and two separate bridge companies to provide command and control of, and all participants were in overdrive throughout the exercise. The main focus of the event was communications and the unit was evaluated on their ability to receive and send information both up and down the chain of command.

The unit was fortunate to have three mentors with them throughout the exercise. The Senior Mentor, LTG(R) Joseph William Kinzer, former 5th Army Commander, was both interesting and colorful during the exercise. LTC Swartz stated that his main objective for the exercise was to work all the pieces of the 240th Group, **and the mission was accomplished**. The soldiers grew from the experience and will take some good lessons learned into their next exercise or into combat.



The 240th Engineer Group soldiers performed very well during this event. They established a platform they will build on during the Yama Sakura 49 Exercise. The Yama Sakura exercise will take place in January and we will have a Tactical Operations Center (TOC) set up at Fort Lewis, Washington. They will also have some personnel in Japan for the exercise. This is a First Corps event and will



Staff Sergeant Paula Linscott processes the Strength Report during the Simulation Exercise.

involve approximately 5,000 soldiers. It will also employ the Future Force modularized engineer components and give all participants a chance to see what is on the horizon.

All of the soldiers performed well, and three were chosen as “Hero’s of the Exercise” for their efforts. The “Heroes” selected by the exercise mentors were CPT Scott Lewis who served as a Battle Captain, PFC Annette Marcotte who served as a clerk in the TOC, and SPC Roy Jones who is assigned in the S4 but helped considerably with the technical audio/visual devices that made the exercise happen. Congrats to them, and all of the soldiers for their great work during this 36-hour exercise.

“.....the 240th

Group ran a good
race....”

—LTG (R) Kinzer.

The story behind the EYES OF THE EAGLE

The EYES OF THE EAGLE is the name of the 240th Engineer Group Annual Training Newsletter for many reasons. There is obvious symbolism of the Eagle which is representative of Group's level of command. The EYES are symbolic of the Group's watchful eye over their subordinate units. In nature, an eagle soars majestically over its realm, surveying all it sees, at times not even detected. Accordingly, the 240th watches over their subordinate units and offers assistance and guidance when needed. The EYES also represent the Commander's Staff who serve as his eyes in their areas of expertise.



“Measure Others By Us!”



Commander's Corner...Comments by LTC Swartz

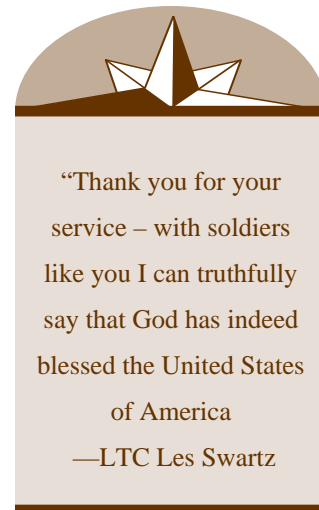
Our world of the National Guard is changing. Those of you who were part of our Tactical Movement (aka 'Convoy') operations during Annual Training can see clearly that the Guard of today is transforming into something quite different than what it was only a few years ago. We have come a long ways since the 'beer tent' days of past years, and I believe that those of you who are still young in your service careers will see even more remarkable changes in the years to come. But in the midst of all this change, one thing remains the same – my pride in you as Citizen Soldiers of the 240th Engineer Group. From Chief Merrill's quiet, soft-spoken professionalism, to SSG Waite's Marine pride, to PFC Marcotte's willingness to shield others from the enemy's bullets, you all show that you are Soldiers – carrying on a proud tradition of service to the Nation. Never let anyone say that you have not done your part to keep our country strong. Thank you for your service – with soldiers like you I can truthfully say that God has indeed blessed the United States of America.



LTC Swartz prepares to warm up on the 35 foot tower, before later rappelling off the 55 footer.



While at Bog Brook Training Area, members of the unit participated in the Land Navigation Course, using maps, compasses, and GPS receivers.



“Measure Others By Us!”



Convoy Operations

During Annual Training 2005, members of the 240th Engineer Group conducted extensive training on Convoy Operations. Sergeant First Class (SFC) George A. Yáñez, formerly of Company C, 133d Engineer Combat Battalion, (...Chargin' Charlie) was an invited guest instructor during portions of the Group's Annual Training period. Using the standard Army training process called "Crawl / Walk / Run", SFC Yáñez instructed and coached the unit through various real-world convoy scenarios.

During the "Crawl" phase, SFC Yáñez showed a PowerPoint presentation he created using both lessons from the Army's Convoy Leader's Handbook, and lessons from experiences he gained while leading tactical convoys throughout Iraq during Operation Iraqi Freedom. He instructed on the importance of Pre-Combat Checks, good communications, and proper placement of specific vehicles in the convoy (ie: evacuation vehicles, Enemy Prisoner of War (EPW) vehicles, command vehicles, and gun trucks). He instructed unit members on different courses of action soldiers should take based on different scenarios such as encountering a blocked road, taking sniper fire, ambushes, finding an Improvised Explosive Device (IED), encountering Vehicle-Borne IEDs (VBIEDs), and dealing with civilians on the battlefield. With



MSG Berthiaume takes notes during one of many convoy briefings.



"Roger, Out!" CPT Damon, the unit commander, replies to a Radio Check. Unit members frequently performed these checks to ensure their radios were functioning properly.

strategically placed expletives, SFC Yáñez made his points crystal clear.

For the "Walk" phase, unit members traded their seats in the classroom for the seats in their HMMWVs (High-Mobility-Multipurpose-Wheeled-Vehicle). After the convoy brief, and pre-combat checks, the unit headed off to its destination. This time, the destination was the Gardiner Training Area.

Mission accomplished – all arrived at the Gardiner Training Area, and after a quick "after-PMCS" the soldiers prepared for the next phase of training....

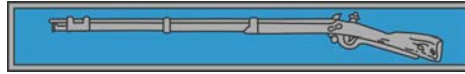
At this point in time, the 240th Group has several soldiers who have experience with convoys. Each of the soldiers below has deployed overseas in support of the Global War on Terror. During Annual Training 2005, each of these soldiers contributed something to the training. Several of these soldiers are truly experts and have much experience to share.

CPT Lajoie	SGT Eastman	SSG Sayce	SGT Carey	SGT Meyers	SPC Wade	SGT Higgins
SGT Wood	CPT Lewis	1LT Akers	SFC Mynes	SSG Hanson	SGT Grotton	SFC Berthiaume
SGT Holland	MSG Madore					

"Measure Others By Us!"



Convoy Operations Continued....A note about our guest instructor



In order to have legitimate periods of instruction in the Army, an instructor needs to be able to “walk the walk”, not simply “talk the talk”. For the Convoy Operations classes, the 240th Group sought out one soldier by name.....SFC George A. Yáñez.

Before coming to the Maine Army National Guard in 1999, Sergeant First Class Yáñez was an Infantryman with the 3rd Infantry Division for 2 years, and the 1st Infantry Division for 8 months. He also served with the 2/11th ACR at the National Training Center (NTC), in Ft. Irwin, California for 3 years as Opposing Force (OPFOR) for units on rotating through the NTC. While a member of the 133d Engineer Combat Battalion (Heavy),

he deployed to Iraq for a year. While in Iraq, SFC Yáñez lead over 100 convoys. In his free time, SFC Yáñez worked in the Company Operation Center, and did project work with the unit. Over his career in the Army, SFC Yáñez has earned many awards. In addition to many service awards, he has also been earned several Maine Physical Fitness Ribbons, the Maine Army National Guard NCO-of-the-year Award, two Maine Academic Awards, the Distinguished Leadership Award for BNCOC, 5 Army Achievement Medals, 2 Army Commendation Medals, and most recently a Bronze Star Medal for action during Operation Iraqi Freedom. Of his awards, he values his Expert Infantryman's Badge the most.

To earn an EIB, Infantry soldiers face 63 soldier tasks at 22 stations over three days. Tasks included first aid, employing and recovering a claymore mine, arming and throwing a hand grenade, protecting against nuclear, biological and chemical attack, zeroing a laser aiming device, assembling and disassembling an M-240 machine gun, and loading and firing a .50- caliber machine gun, and must complete a 12-mile road march in less than 3 hours with a 40-pound rucksack.



“I value my EIB the most because I had to earn it on my own. Nobody recommend me for it—it was all on me.” - SFC Yanez



SFC Yanez, third from the right, stops for a photo along the Iran / Iraq Border. From left to right is Specialist Miguel Fernandez, (who was cross-leveled from the 204th, New York Army National Guard), Staff Sergeant Danny Robert, (Co C, 133d), and Specialist Damien Dufour (Co C, 133d). On this convoy, one of over a 100 that SFC Yanez lead, the convoy transported a logistics package (“LOGPAC”) and were doing a reconnaissance mission for future engineer projects. They also brought humanitarian aide for the Kurdish people of northern Iraq.

“Measure Others By Us!”



Warrior Lanes Training



The purpose of the Warrior Lanes Training is to teach the skills required of a basic soldier and the skills required to perform combat operations necessary to survivability in hostile theaters of operations.

The Global War on Terror requires soldiers to possess multiple skills in order to maximize their ability to survive on the battlefield and enhance their unit's ability to fight. Basic soldier skills that include critical combat survival skills; duties of a soldier in any combat, combat support and combat service support unit, including the ability to prepare



(Above) During the "crawl phase" of the Warrior Lanes Training, MSG Bristol instructs soldiers from the 240th Engineer Group on dismounting techniques. MSG Bristol is from the Regional Training Institute at Camp Keyes in Augusta.



and send a medical evacuation request, Enemy Prisoner of War handling, search and seizure techniques, navigation, and various immediate action drills. Units also train on Troop Leading Procedures, conducting personnel and vehicle searches, reacting to direct fire while dismounted, entering a building during urban operations, engaging targets during urban operations, and conducting convoy rehearsals.

During the training lane, soldiers are immediately submerged in a tactical environment in a Forward Operating Base. They are responsible for security, civil affairs and the good order of

their area of operations. They are exposed to the same conditions many deployed soldiers face in Operation Iraqi Freedom, and Operation Enduring Freedom. They learn vital tactics and techniques needed to survive in a combat situation to include establish security, conduct vehicle and personnel searches, convoy operations and reaction drills under fire. The training culminates with a field exercise using paintball simulations geared around entering a building under fire and the associated tasks that support this type of drill.

(Editors note: This article was extracted from the RTI's Warrior Lanes Training Letter of Instruction.)



With paintball guns in-hand, soldiers prep for the final test of the Warrior Lane.



“The firing line is now ready!”

A day at the range with the 240th Group.



In May 2005, the unit performed their Record Fire at the Reserve Forces Training Area Devens. During Annual Training 2005, the unit fired a make-up and familiarization range. The following soldiers fired Expert on their M16 at the range during Annual Training. Well Done.

Sergeant Gleason: 40 out of 40. He also scored 40 out of 40 on the practice as well.

Staff Sergeant Sayce: 40 out of 40.

Staff Sergeant Waite: 39 out of 40.

Sergeant Johnson: 38 out of 40.

First Sergeant Bernard 38 out of 40.



“Dead Driver”

Soldiers practiced “Dead Driver Drills” during Annual Training 2005. During these drills, the driver goes limp, and gets pulled out of the driver’s seat by the other occupants. The passenger then climbs into the driver’s seat, and drives the vehicle to the rally point.

After practicing in a parked vehicle, the soldiers took turns in the different roles during the exercise at speeds of 5 to 10 MPH.



LAND NAVIGATION



During Annual Training 2005, members of the 240th Engineer Group trained extensively on land navigation, both at the Gardiner Training Area, and while at Bog Brook Training Site. Sergeant Trevor Gleason instructed members of the 240th Engineer Group on using a compass, reading a map, and using a global positioning system (GPS). Of course, the training on maps and compass was a review, and a good one. However, for many, the GPS training was something new.

While in Gardiner, the soldiers trained on the different ways to navigate from one point to another. After the training, it was time to put the training to the test.

The unit was broken down into groups of 3 to 5 soldiers each. After breaking down into groups, soldiers had to plot their courses. First, soldiers had to zero their compass, then set the declination. Then they had to orientate their map to magnetic north by placing the compass on the map (with the edge of the compass set along the grid lines, then rotating the map until the needle



Sergeant Gleason gives instruction on using a compass, reading a map, and using a GPS while at the Gardiner Training Area.



When asked about which way back to the finish point, each staff officer had a different idea of which way to go. Luckily, a team of NCOs helped them back to safety.

pointed to magnetic north). After orientating the map, soldiers added the points. Sergeant Gleason gave the soldiers points by giving an azimuth and distance from the start point. He also gave them GPS coordinates. Unit members were instructed to use any combination of navigation techniques in order to find their points. Most used a combination of dead-reckoning, (following the azimuth and/or using the “Go To” option on the GPS) and terrain association.

The training was successful, and everyone found their points. It was a good warm-up for the more challenging course the unit would train on once at the Bog Brook Training Site. Of course, some



groups took longer than others to find their points. Even the “Staff” found their way – however, it is speculated that they followed the footprints of the groups ahead of them.



MAJ Rolf Vonderheide, the Group's Commo Officer, and Major Rick Darveau, the Group's full-time Administrative Officer, stop momentarily at Point 16 at the Gardiner Training Area. For this leg of the course, MAJ Vonderheide used the map, and MAJ Darveau used the GPS while to help find the point.



About our instructor.....Sergeant Trevor Gleason has over 12 years of navigation and Global Positioning System (GPS) experience developed through formal and on-the-job training. From 1993 – 1997, he served as the Assistant Navigator on the USS Arleigh Burke, responsible for the ship's navigation using GPS, radar, piloting, and celestial navigation. He served as a surveyor from 1998 to 2002, with the 101st Civil Engineering Squadron, in Bangor after receiving training at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri. In May 2002, Sergeant Gleason earned a B.S. degree in Surveying Engineering from the University of Maine, Orono focusing on Geographic Information Systems (GIS), Remote Sensing, Boundary Survey, and GPS. He currently serves in the Operations Section (S-3) of the 240th Engineer Group as a Technical Engineer Sergeant (Surveyor), and works full-time with the Maine Department of Transportation as an Assistant Engineer. He is also licensed as a Land Surveyor in Training in Maine. For his efforts during Annual Training 2005, Sergeant Gleason earned an Army Achievement Medal—the only one awarded for this year's Annual Training.



“Less is More” by CSM Paul E. Luce



I'd like to thank everyone for a job well done during Annual Training 2005. I continue to be amazed how things get done with so few soldiers at the helm. Beyond that, what does get done is done with pride and to a level of quality that far exceeds expectations. How can that be? The answer is “attitude”...specifically, a “positive attitude.”

From the SIMEX to Warrior Training to Team Building to “recovery,” every activity was driven by the desire to succeed. That isn't something that leadership can teach. It's something that evolves from within,



Command Sergeant Major Luce prepares to depart on one of the many convoys conducted during Annual Training 2005

or as LTC Swartz would say...”It's something that you have to have in here (...pointing toward his heart).”

Our Annual Training proved that we are prepared to answer the call to duty for either of our dual missions, and indeed, we're potentially on the front burner for both, hey? As such, remain focused; remain fit, and remind yourselves of the phrase on our coins of excellence...i.e., ***Measure Others By Us.***

Collectively, we've set the bar high for Group performance, and I know that each of you would accept nothing less.

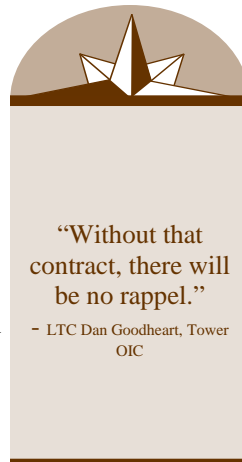
You're the best!



Soldiers in the 240th Group “Warm-Up” rappelling from the 35-foot wall before attempting the 55-footer later in the morning..

“Tower on Rappel!”

After an initial in-briefing and welcoming to the tower by Lieutenant Colonel Daniel Goodheart, the Commander of the Maine National Guard CounterDrug Task Force, the soldiers of the 240th Engineer Group were fitted with their safety harness, and safety gloves. LTC Goodheart explained about the rappelling “contract.” The “contract” is an agreement between the rappelor and belay. The rappelor shouts, “Tower on Rappel!” signaling that he/she is ready to jump. The soldier holding the belay (...safety rope) then shouts “Tower on Belay!” signaling that he/she is ready. LTC Goodheart explained that, for safety's sake, if there is no contract, there will be no rappel. After practicing the universal falling signal, the unit members headed to the practice area before being allowed on the tower. After warming up on the 35 footer, soldiers climbed up the ladder to the 55 foot wall.



“Measure Others By Us!”



Learning the ROPES..... a lesson from the CounterDrug Task Force Drug Demand Reduction.

In addition to the tower, the CounterDrug folks led members of the 240th Engineer Group through the ROPES Course. The ROPES Course is the Reality Orientated Physical Exercises. Based on information provided by the CounterDrug Task Force, this training “allows participants to experience community support and their own empowerment, and to continue the development of social competencies and a positive self-identity through a series of challenges in a safe environment.”

On the ROPES Course, participants are charged to complete a task, and then move on to the next station. The stations have names such as “10 Foot Wall,” “Rope Bridge,”



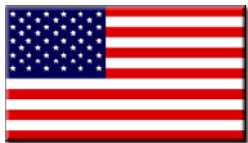
(Above) Unit members navigate a station where one soldier leans into another and they walk across a thin cable. The cable forms a triangle, so in order to be successful, each soldier has to lean on the other, in order not to fall.



“Fidget Ladder,” “Triangle Traverse,” “Prouty’s Landing,” and “Wild Woosey.” In most scenarios, the participants have to go *over* something, *through* something, or *swing on* something. On order to be successful, participants must work together and trust each other.....points that were emphasized several times during the course.

(Left) First Sergeant Mike Lord, from the CounterDrug Task Force leads an After Action Review after the “Tire Swing” obstacle. Soldiers discussed how they felt after first failing the mission, then regrouping and becoming successful.





United Kingdom Exchange Program....

A Visitor from England.



The Engineer Community has long participated in the United Kingdom Exchange Program. This year, Staff Sergeant Anthony Romano, from Co B, 133d Engineer Combat Battalion (Heavy), hosted Staff Sergeant Paul Withers from the 217th Field Squadron (EOD) from England. Staff Sergeant Romano first visited England, where Staff Sergeant Withers hosted him. While in England the two visited the Tower of London and Winston Churchill's Bunker. Romano was given the opportunity to zero and qualify on an assault range with pop-up targets. In visiting Maine, Withers got an opportunity to hike Mt Chocura, tour the Shipyard Brewing Company, and, of course, eat fresh Maine Lobster.